

THIRTY-THIRD YEAR OF PUBLICATION

# TOC H JOURNAL

September  
1955

NEWS • VIEWS • IDEAS



Letters and articles are welcomed and are printed as individual points of view, and are not necessarily those of the Movement

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Cover Picture: Members in Uganda digging a trench for a new blind School.

(see "Far Cry" page 292)

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# WALLS THAT SPEAK

"WALLS HAVE EARS" runs the old saying, but most of us, at one time or another, have come upon some building whose walls told their own tale. A classic example that readily springs to mind is the Old House itself, for no sooner does the visitor cross the threshold than its walls at once commence to tell a story which began forty years ago. But for all they have to tell, and it is a very great deal, the Old House really comes alive when a party of members is 'in occupation' and its walls can then re-echo their vitality and laughter.

A cluster of tents and hutments on an Essex shore, reached only by an unbelievably long and deeply-rutted track, forms the summer home of the Othona Community. A deceptively happy-go-lucky air and an absence of 'planning' might well tempt a newcomer into making rash generalisations which forty-eight hours later would need drastic revision. (For more hardened characters this process takes about twice the time.) Not a little of Othona's 'atmosphere' is traceable to the nearby Chapel which forms the Community's focal point. As one of the oldest consecrated buildings in England the stark simplicity of Cedd's barn-like church is most impressive and its walls tell plain of the changes and chances of thirteen centuries. Here again, the greatest height is gained when the walls resound with the music and prayers of the men and women—and children, who find themselves 'at home' within them.

Diverse as the Old House and the Chapel of St. Peter-ad-Murum are from each other, an even greater diversity is to be found in the thousand and one places where Toc H members meet. Few of the Branch meeting-rooms are palatial, but almost without exception their walls tell the newcomer something of a Movement that started in war-time in a foreign land and has since spread throughout the world. The tale they tell is a stirring one, but it still needs men who can relate it to lives being led today. Walls can speak but it is the men within them who alone can make Toc H a lively and living force.

# Parsons in Uniform - I

Here is an outline of the work performed by members of the Royal Army Chaplains' Department. The writer, the Rev. K. C. Oliver, O.B.E., is Assistant Chaplain General serving with the Brigade of Guards, a former member of Toc H staff and now Padre of Mark II.

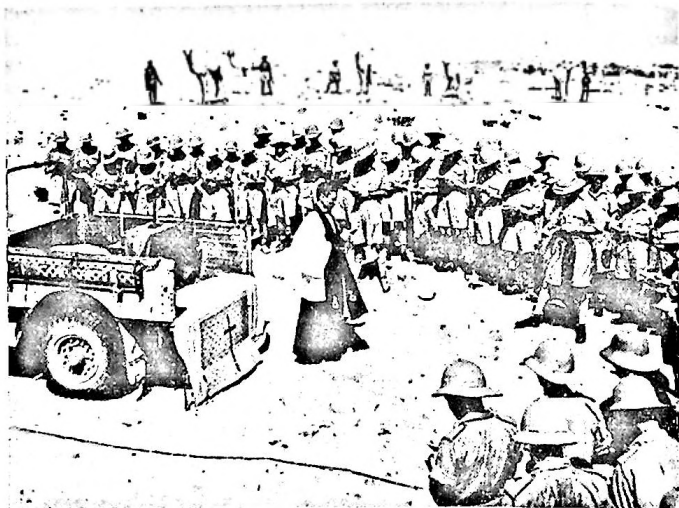
IT WOULD SEEM strange today if someone asked, "What arms does the chaplain carry?" He is, of course, a non-combatant and carries no arms. But in the Middle Ages the problem was a really serious one, as the part the chaplain played was in all respects militant. Of course he must not be allowed to draw blood and so could not be armed with a spear or sword. Instead, his weapon was the mace, a large lump of metal studded with spikes which, although it did not draw blood, enabled the chaplain to be a formidable representative of the Church Militant. This was, of course, at the time of the Crusades when striking fear into the infidel was considered most necessary and, indeed, righteous. Even the high ecclesiastics in the Church were expected to play their part and the Bishop of a Diocese might well find himself called upon to become a Corps Commander in times of emergency, and history relates an interlude when the Scots invasion was ignominiously defeated by an Army led by the Archbishop of York and the Bishops of Durham and Carlisle, although even in those days the Scots could hardly be considered infidels. But times changed and the chaplain's rôle to-day is of a very different character.

## *Close link*

We can trace through history a good deal of this change, as the link between the Church and the Army has always been very close. A directive sent out to Commanding Officers in the seventeenth century advised that in addition to the regimental officers, the Colonel should have on his strength an auditor, a provost marshal, a surgeon, a hangman and a chaplain. The order of these offices again indicates something of the chaplain's rôle!

During these years the responsibility of selecting chaplains was left in the hands of Commanding Officers and this did not always prove satisfactory, as the case of Chaplain Vatass proves. After fifty-three years service he was officially

invalided out at the age of seventy-five with the comment that "the greater part of these fifty-three years had been spent on sick leave". His rôle, at any rate, cannot have been very effective. In 1796 it was officially decided that a new system was necessary. The responsibility of appointing chaplains was taken over by the War Office and delegated to the Chaplain-General, who was appointed in consultation with the leaders of the Church. The Chaplain-General was made



A war-time Church Parade in the Desert

responsible for the commissioning of all chaplains. It is interesting to note that the Act which brought about this change suggested that the following qualities were desirable in a chaplain—"zealous in his profession, with good sense and gentle manners and a firm constitution in body and mind". All these qualities are still most necessary for the modern chaplain. Since 1796 the chaplains have been an integral part of the Army and have taken part, with distinction, in the great wars that have followed that date.

We must never forget that Toc H was born out of the work of chaplains during the 1914 war. That great link between our Movement and the Chaplains' Department must always be maintained and fostered. The Old House at Popper-

inghe showed exactly how a chaplain's work could be fitted into a modern Army. The fact that our great Brotherhood grew out of this conception shows how deeply these roots are implanted in every man.

### *Established tradition*

At the beginning of the 1914 war it was not considered desirable for a chaplain to appear in the Front Line and it required a great deal of courage and determination before chaplains won the right to be alongside the men with whom they served, under all conditions of battle. So heroically did the chaplains of the first war conduct themselves that by 1939 it was an established tradition that a regimental chaplain should go wherever his men went. During these two wars the casualties suffered by chaplains, both in killed and wounded, were comparatively heavier than in any other regiment of the British Army although, of course, the chaplains rank as non-combatants. In the prisoner-of-war camps, too, the chaplains endured all the rigours of captivity and, in many cases, were a tremendous comfort to their fellow prisoners. In the Korean War the Rev. S. J. Davies, who stayed behind with the wounded after the Gloucesters had made their stand at the Imjin River, was held prisoner in North Korea for over two years. He was the only chaplain to survive the rigours of captivity and has written an enthralling account of his experiences in his book *In Spite of Dungeons*. All these things have built up a great reputation for the chaplains in all the Services.

### *Essential part*

A chaplain has unrivalled opportunities in war-time to become an essential part of the life of a battalion. During the Desert Campaign in the Eighth Army, chaplains lived cheek by jowl with their men. It was no unusual experience for a chaplain to share a three-ton truck with six or seven soldiers. The truck was the caravan—they lived in it, ate around it and slept under it. When they were in action, throughout the whole day they would be completely on their own without any other vehicle within two hundred yards. They cooked their own food and made all their own domestic arrangements and the chaplain became part of the team. He had a wonderful chance of getting to know the men really well. Under these conditions it is soon easy to see who is the shirker and who is the man prepared to do that little bit extra

when things are difficult and uncomfortable. But, above all, the comradeship of being under fire with his men builds a bond between the chaplain and all those he serves which is stronger than any other. The chaplain who has proved his worth in battle has won a position that nothing can shake.

Today the Services are faced with the great challenge of National Service. This means that the youth of the nation, for two important years of their life, are serving in their



A war-time Communion Service

ranks. The Services are fully aware of the great responsibility that this places in their hands. It is not enough that these young men should become trained soldiers, sailors or airmen it is most important that their time in the Services should also develop the qualities of citizenship and leadership. The authorities realise that the chaplains can play a great part in achieving this object and, as a result, every encouragement is given to the chaplain in his work.

This gives the Church a really tremendous opportunity for evangelism. The Service chaplain has two great assets. In the first place he serves alongside his people, he lives with them, he wears their uniform, he experiences the same circumstances, he is one of them. His second great asset is the friendship and encouragement that is always available to him, and although it may appear to a new chaplain joining his regiment

for the first time that only a few appear to require his services as a priest, yet he can be certain that even fewer are not prepared to welcome him as a friend. As he shows himself worthy of their friendship and trust he will find that there are many more who also need him as a priest than he would ever have imagined from his first impression.

### *Rewarding opportunities*

There is a very great variety in the kind of work available in this country and overseas. At home a good deal of the work is in Training Centres. A soldier's life here is very hectic, but a good chaplain will find most rewarding opportunities. It is his job to ensure that the recruits are made aware, at the start of their service, that a chaplain is always available and is really concerned with all of their problems. The chaplain in these units must discover those who appear to be likely candidates for Confirmation and full church membership. If their period of training is too short for him to complete this himself, then he will commend them to the chaplain at their next unit.

There are, of course, the large Garrison Centres such as Aldershot and Catterick. Here the chaplain's work will more closely resemble the work of a parish priest. He will there find an established Garrison Church with all the usual organisations. He will have families who need visiting and children who need instructing and sick folk in hospital. But above all he will find hundreds of young men rather bewildered and bothered by their completely new surroundings who will readily listen to a man who is prepared to explain things in terms of God's Plan for His children, and show the relevance of the Christian Faith to the problems of National Service.

Also in this country are more specialised appointments at the Officers' Training Centres at Sandhurst, Eton Hall and Mons. Here the chaplain will find an atmosphere of keenness and endeavour and the Padre's Hour will be an integral part of the Training Programme. This is also true at the Army Boys Schools at Dover, Arborfield and elsewhere. In all these training centres the Garrison Church occupies a most important place in the life of the unit.

*[To be concluded]*

# CHAPEL IN THE MEADOW

by I. WYN ROBERTS

Here is an account of a splendid job carried through to a notable finish. On Saturday, June 25, the Hall was officially opened, the Chapel dedicated by the Lord Bishop of St. Asaph and the buildings transferred to the Wrexham, Powys and Mawddach Management Committee.

THROUGH the medium of wireless, Sandy Macpherson's imaginary "Chapel in the Valley" has become loved by radio listeners throughout the world, but this is the story of how a group of Toc H members translated from imagination into reality, the Chapel in the Meadow.

Behind every action there lies a reason, and there is a valid reason why Hope & Caergwrle Branch of Toc H should have undertaken a project which appeared, at first sight, to be far beyond their resources. Yet they refused to be overawed or daunted by the magnitude of their task. With commendable persistency they continued in their work with the result that within almost twelve months from the time the project was first mooted, the Chapel and Talbot House stand as a fitting memorial and tribute to their zeal and effort.

Throughout the worst summer in living memory, and during the most bitter of winters, these intrepid workers have fought even against the elements themselves in their efforts to complete the work in time for the opening ceremony.

## *Why it was Built*

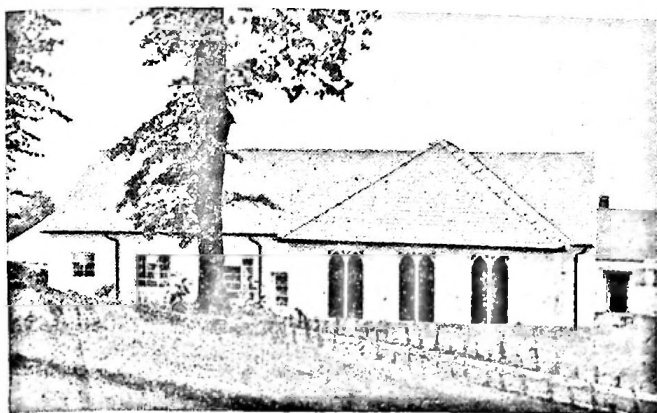
But let us start at the beginning. Even before the first sod was cut, and long before the Matron laid the first brick in September, 1954, Toc H was a name well known to the patients of Meadowslea. Formed a little over two years ago through the vision and enterprise of the then Curate of Hope, the Rev. Tom Bryan, the Branch were quick to seize the opportunity for service which the hospital provided. Members realised that in the incessant fight against tuberculosis—a disease which confines its victims to their beds for prolonged periods—recreation was of the utmost importance in combating monotony and boredom, and effecting a permanent cure.

Individually, and as a group, Toc H members paid frequent



visits to the hospital, bringing in their wake friendship, fellowship, spiritual and recreational refreshment. From the outset they realised that the hospital lacked the amenity of a Chapel and Recreation Hall in which entertainments could be provided outside the atmosphere of a hospital ward.

One might well wonder why, under a Welfare State, the Hospital Committee could not provide these urgently needed



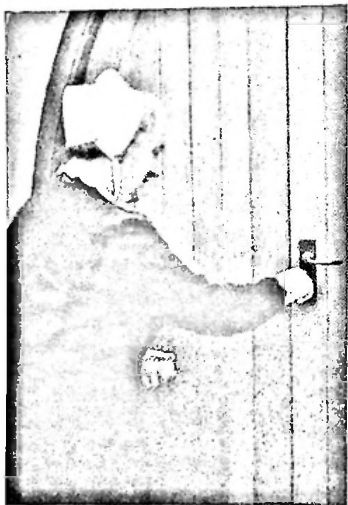
General view of Talbot House and the Chapel

amenities. A letter from the Minister of Health, Mr. Iain Macleod, informed the Branch that much as the Ministry sympathised with the suggestion, public funds were not available for such a project. In view of this letter, Hope & Caergwrle Branch of Toc H set out to provide what the Welfare State could not do, and with the cordial blessing of the Hospital Management Committee, coupled with the practical co-operation and help of matron, nursing staff and patients alike, the ambitious project was begun.

On June 18, while Branch members were commemorating the first anniversary of their foundation, the Meadowslea Hospital Chapel and Recreational Hall scheme was launched. From the outset members realised that a project of this magnitude was beyond the immediate resources of a small Branch, however thriving it might be. It was therefore necessary to inspire other units with the idea, and so the next phase in the campaign began—'selling' the scheme to Toc H Branches far and wide. Very soon the idea captured the imagination

of Toc H members over a wide area, and it was soon evident that sufficient interest existed to make the plan not only feasible but possible.

Through the kind services of a local architect, freely provided, plans for the scheme were drawn up, and the cost of the scheme was estimated at £3,000. Far from being discouraged by the magnitude of such a target, the estimate spurred them on to yet greater efforts, and Toc H Meadows-



The Matron, Miss M. E. Bowen, unlocks the door of the Chapel

lea Chapel Committee came into being. Mold and Buckley members were co-opted on to the Committee, and although the main working party was recruited from Hope & Caergwrle, the assistance received from neighbouring Branches has not been inconsiderable.

Throughout the history of the project the Branch have maintained a close liaison with the Hospital Committee. A site convenient to the main hospital buildings was placed at Toc H's disposal, but to clear the ground three trees had to be felled.

Tree-felling was something beyond even the strength of Toc H members, but through the generosity of a local contractor who loaned the workers a tractor affectionately known as "Green Linnet", the trees were soon measuring their length along the ground. A mechanical shovel was next pressed into service with the result that by the end of July, the site was ready for foundation laying to begin. August, however, stands in the memory of the 'gang' as the month in which the Battle of the Dykes was relentlessly fought. Night after night, the voluntary labourers who reported for duty at the end of their normal day's work were faced with the heart breaking task of emptying water-logged trenches. Precious hours were wasted in this non-constructive work, with the



The opening ceremony at Meadowslea on Saturday, June 25

result that it was not until September that the foundations were laid. It was about this time that "The Rocket" made its appearance upon the site. "The Rocket" bore no resemblance to George Stephenson's invention of the same name, for it was a mortar mixing machine. So invaluable were its services, that the Branch conferred upon the mixer the honorary membership of Toc H—a signal honour which no other concrete mixer enjoys!

### *"Veterans" Lead the Way*

During this particular phase of operations, four bricklayers engaged in the work had a combined age of three hundred years. Until the final touches were put to the building, these four stalwarts formed the solid core which supervised building operations and the training of unskilled volunteers.

Proof that the voluntary spirit is far from being exhausted is provided by the fact that Toc H had to engage a special bus in order to bring to the site volunteer bricklayers who were anxious to lend a hand. In spite of the vagaries of British climate, the workers managed to complete the roof during the week after Christmas, and ironically enough, the final slate was fixed into position during a warm December week, with the slaters literally basking in the welcome sunshine.

### *Despite the Weather*

The roofing having been completed, indoor work went on apace in the new year. Temporary lighting was installed by a Toc H member who was formerly Supervisory Engineer to Maentwrog Power Station. Despite the shocking weather, which was sufficient to dampen the stoutest of hearts, work never stopped. To warm their freezing hands, an old oil drum was pressed into service as an improvised brazier. As winter passed into spring, and spring into summer, the workers—unskilled and skilled, craftsmen and labourers—pressed on relentlessly with their self appointed tasks, grimly determined to see that the buildings would be ready by the appointed day.

On June 6, 1955, the workers laid aside their tools and assembled in the partially completed Chapel at eventide to partake of the Ceremony of Light. The Matron, Miss M. E. Bowen, at the members' invitation, joined with them in the ceremony. It was an experience which will long be remembered, for a deep sense of peace permeated the Chapel.

### *Help Acknowledged*

Hope & Caergwrle Toc H members are deeply conscious of the fact that without the help of friends, known and unknown, seen and unseen, Talbot House and the Chapel would never have been completed. Their help is deeply appreciated. They are justly proud of the fact that they were the first unit to sponsor such a scheme. While they were fully dependent upon the financial support of a vast host of friends, Toc H members were ready and willing to undertake the building work themselves.

### *How Money Was Raised*

It would be impossible to enumerate all the ways by which the cost of the buildings has been met. Apart from individual subscriptions—far too numerous to mention—money was raised by donations from the Welsh Churches' Disestablishment Fund, Buckley Pantomime, factory collections, miner's levy, whist drives, sales of work, dances and concerts. Every section of the community has had a share in the work—not forgetting patients, past and present, of Meadowslea, the nursing staff and hospital maids. To all, Toc H Meadowslea Building Committee say "Thank you".

# MULTUM | MUCH IN PARVO | IN LITTLE

✠ MISS MACFIE, Founder Pilot of the Women's Association, leaves London on September 27 to visit South America and will return early in December.

✠ HON. AREA CORRESPONDENTS: For Surrey: CHARLES BROWNE, 1 Pewley Way, Guildford. For Oxford and Thames Valley: JOHN WILSON, 5 Garvin Avenue, Beaconsfield, Bucks.

✠ The NOTTS AND DERBY AREA FESTIVAL will be held on Saturday, October 1. Service in Derby Cathedral at 3 p.m.; preacher: Bishop Pat Leonard. Guest-night in the Central Hall; speaker: Jack Shaw.

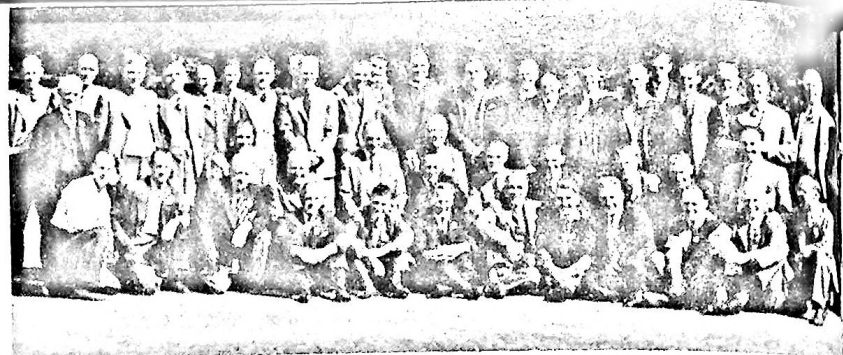
✠ THE WORLD CHAIN OF LIGHT will be observed in turn at 9 p.m. by local time on Saturday, December 10, in places westward of Greenwich to the Pacific, and on Sunday, December 11, from New Zealand westward to Greenwich.

✠ THE VIGIL will be held simultaneously in all parts of the world during the twenty-four hours starting at 9 p.m. by Greenwich mean time on Saturday, December 10. (See July JOURNAL, page 267.) These hours are for intercession and thanksgiving for Toc H in each country in turn, for personal and corporate re-dedication and for preparation of action in the year ahead.

✠ The Central Executive feels that the time is ripe to hold a series of WEEK-END CONFERENCES at which leaders throughout this country can share their convictions and examine together the potential power and possibilities of Toc H. Branches will be asked to nominate their representatives (say, one officer and one younger member) to be invited to any one of these twelve conferences, which will be held at various centres in the early and late months of next year.

✠ TOC H WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION will hold their Festival in London on June 2, 1956. The next Toc H Festival on a national scale will be held in London in the late autumn of 1957.

✠ Branches wishing to obtain ENAMEL SIGNS, 'Toc H' and a direction arrow, 20 ins. x 7 ins., for hanging or fixing near their meeting-places, are invited to apply for particulars now. A stock will be available in October. Prices 10s. and 16s.



# CARRONVALE

A report of the Scottish Council Meeting

by ERNEST C. FLINN

**R**EPRESENTATIVES of Toc H in Scotland held their Annual Conference at Carronvale on Saturday, May 28 and Sunday, May 29. It was a very pleasant and successful meeting and all who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The weather was ideal — real summer — to welcome all the delegates to a delightful Country House, with grand old trees and well kept lawns providing a fine setting for this successful gathering.

The Conference commenced with 'Light' taken by Melville Dinwiddie, and the Chairman, Ray Fawcett, extended a warm welcome to all present, especially John Calf, who had travelled North to attend. An inspiring introductory talk by the Rev. Ken Bloxham stressed the real aim and purpose of Toc H. A report of the Central Council Meeting held at Swanwick was given by Alex Robertson, (Galashiels), who enumerated some of the problems which were discussed at that meeting.

### *Lively interest*

The Chairman and the Hon. Treasurer, Lyndsay Orr, then presented the Scottish Council Report for the year under review. This report came in for the usual measure of criticism and the discussion which followed showed a lively interest in the affairs of Toc H in Scotland. Some helpful suggestions were made by Alex Simpson, of Largs, the Rev. H. S. Watson,

of Nealston, and David Mackay, of Paisley, to stimulate a more vigorous spirit in the Branches. The interest was so great that the allotted time for this part of the conference was exceeded; Melville Dinwiddie and Johnnie MacMillan making good contributions to the discussion, and the report was finally approved and adopted.

We then adjourned for High Tea, a part of the proceedings which did not receive any measure of criticism, and the rest of the evening was spent in getting together and exchanging views and experiences.

### *Gathering of the 'Clans'*

After a substantial breakfast the delegates joined in a Divine Service conducted by Padre Fleming of Larbert Branch. Discussion groups then assembled under the title of "Clans", the McLeans, MacDougals, MacDonalds and MacPhersons. The Clan Leaders being:— Alan Galloway (Galashiels), John Anderson (Inverkeithing), Bob Leslie (Edinburgh) and David Mackay (Paisley). The questions discussed were:—

- (1). Have the traditions of Toc H any real interest for new members?
- (2). What effect has the changing pattern of social life in the last twenty-five years had on Toc H?
- (3). Do Christians make the best Toc H members?
- (4). What is the greatest single need of Toc H today?

These pertinent questions were discussed to some length and, later in the day, the Leaders gave the opinions of their respective groups.

### *Summing up*

The summing up was undertaken by the Rev. Ken Bloxham who had prepared these questions and in the course of the discussions which followed clarified many of the points which remained in doubt. In a stimulating speech Johnnie MacMillan urged members to pursue a more vigorous and active policy.

The Conference ended on a high plane with a fine speech by John Callf who gave an encouraging exhortation to the members, reminding them that the extra effort they made would in due time have its reward. And so closed the Conference at Carronvale, 1955.

# *The Elder Brethren*

*At the going down of the sun and in the morning*

*We will remember them*

AGNEW.—In March, Sir ANDREW AGNEW, C.B.E., a member of the Central General Members Branch. Elected 25.8.'32.

BLEASDALE.—On July 16, ALBERT LEWIS BLEASDALE, aged 48, a member of Trelawny Branch. Elected 1.3.'37.

BOWIE.—In May, RALPH BOWIE, aged 35, a member of St. Helier Branch. Elected 1.10.'52.

CROWTHER.—On July 7, HERBERT CROWTHER, aged 70, a member of Walsden Branch. Elected 12.5.'52.

DALY.—On June 19, JOHN CUTHBERT DALY, aged 60, a founder member of Auckland Branch, New Zealand.

DAVIS.—On July 8, RICHARD FRANCIS IVOR DAVIS, aged 58, a member of Wimborne Branch. Elected 14.9.'36.

DAY.—On July 8, the Rev. GEORGE EDMOND DAY, a founder member of Compton Branch. Elected 18.5.'32.

DYKE.—On June 24, HARRY ROSEWARNE DYKE, J.P., aged 72, a member of South Western Area General Members Branch. Elected 27.7.'27.

DYSON.—On July 13, LEONARD HELLIWELL DYSON, aged 46, a member of Huddersfield Branch. Elected 12.5.'49.

EMMS.—On May 22, EDMUND THOMAS EMMS, aged 62, a member of Lowestoft Branch. Elected 24.7.'31.

GHOSLEY.—On May 29, H. S. F. GHOSLEY, aged 68, a member of South Western Area General Members Branch. Elected 8.1.'31.

HAMMOND.—On June 13, WILLIAM HENRY HAMMOND, aged 55, a member of Chalk Branch and District Pilot Thameside District. Elected 6.4.'48.

HESKETH-JONES.—On June 2, THEODORE HESKETH-JONES, aged 66, a founder member of Watford Branch. Elected 19.12.'27.

HICKS.—On June 4, FRANCIS HUBERT HICKS, aged 71, a member of Bovey Tracey Branch. Elected 27.10.'48.

MATTHEWS.—On June 27, WALTER MATTHEWS, aged 77, elected Rawalpindi 2.2.'36 and later a member of Rickmansworth Branch.

MAYGER.—On April 26, JAMES MAYGER, aged 63, a founder member of Holland-on-Sea Branch. Elected 1.12.'50.

MEAD.—On July 12, ERNEST WILLIAM MEAD, aged 56, a member of Eaton Branch. Elected 1.1.'27.

MORTON.—On May 7, ALFRED C. MORTON, a member of Ilford Branch. Elected 11.6.'38.

OGILVIE.—On June 9, at Kowloon, Hongkong, the Rev. JOHN HENRY OGILVIE, O.B.E., formerly Toc H Padre in Scotland. Elected 4.10.'29.

PHILLIPS.—In June, STANLEY RICHARD PHILLIPS, aged 49, a member of Plymouth Branch. Elected 14.7.'39.

PIMBLOTT.—On June 12, ARTHUR W. PIMBLOTT, aged 60, a former member of Brussels Branch. Elected 2.3.'31.



RAILTON.—On June 30, in Inverness-shire, the Rev. DAVID RAILTON, M.C., aged 70, formerly of the Industrial Christian Fellowship and Rector of St. Nicholas, Liverpool. Elected 1.11.'39.

ROWLANDS.—On July 1, FRANCIS CECIL ROWLANDS ('Seth'), aged 63, the Pilot of Bedwas Branch. Elected 17.11.'48.

STEVENSON.—On June 13, GEORGE THOMAS STEVENSON, aged 53, a member of Seaford Branch. Elected 18.10.'33.

TAYLER.—On July 7, FRED S. TAYLER ('Togs'), aged 65, a member of Costessey Branch and founder member of Norwich Branch. Elected May '23.

TROUP.—On July 2, the Rev. GEORGE ELMSLIE TROUP, C.B.E., a founder and chairman of the Scottish Association of Boys' Clubs, a member of the Scottish General Branch. Elected 1.7.'21.

TILBROOK.—On July 8, ALBERT EDWARD TILBROOK, aged 62, a member of Accrington Branch. Elected 17.1.'47.

WARDEN.—On June 24, GEORGE WALTER WARDEN, aged 51, a member of Newton Abbot Branch. Elected 16.5.'31.

WEBSTER.—In July, after a long illness, HERBERT AUSTIN WEBSTER ('Bert'), aged 36, a founder member of Meigle Branch. Elected 25.9.'52.

WHITE.—On May 6, W. H. NORMAN WHITE, a member of North London Area General Members Branch. Elected 29.2.'28.

WILLSMER.—On June 11, FRANK WILLSMER, aged 57, a member of Broughton Astley Branch. Elected 9.7.'51.

## IN MEMORIAM: DAVID RAILTON

"He belonged, I think, to that class of persons who, because they are profoundly interested and sympathetic towards their fellow men, can never in nature grow old"—so writes W. J. C. Masterman, of one of his characters in *An Oxford Tragedy*. This would serve as a short commentary on the life of a man who will be remembered with proud thanksgiving by many members of Toc H on Merseyside. David Railton had this secret of timeless love. The Rector of a great city church, he never failed to have time for people. For all people.

Early in the last war he came to live in Gladstone House, which was indeed a true home for a strange mixture, of a few hostellers who were hosts to a much larger number of men of the Royal Navy, and the Merchant Navy, home from the perils of convoy duty, or mine sweeping on the cruel sea. With humility and unfailing good humour, David became one of this small team of men who did such a grand job. In him, the youngest 'Snottie' or the toughest trawler skipper found the true host, giving the best which Toc H has to give.

When his church was destroyed in an air raid it was characteristic of him that he should see in this not doom, but opportunity. It was an easy matter to arrange for the conduct of services in some other building, but, to him it was much more important that his people should think of themselves not as the habitees of a building now destroyed and so perforce homeless: but as the company of faithful people whose joy would be to go out and share their worship with those who, nightly, crowded the air raid shelters. How unflinching he was in his nightly 'parochial visitations', often at risk of life, those of us who knew him at that time, know well. It was typical of him that he should prefer to carry the good news to people where they were, rather than that he should wait for them to come to him.

We of Toc H talk of "gallant and high-hearted happiness", and "the infection of good courage". There are times when I am uncertain what the words may mean. But when I remember David Railton I know that I have known. He was indeed a true Messenger and a Faithful Steward.

R.J.D.

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# FAR CRY

## NOTES AND NEWS FROM DISTANT PARTS



Contributed by GEOFF MARTIN, *Overseas Secretary*

### ONE MAN AT SEA

EVERY WEEK, when the home-bound mail-ship docks at Cape Town, a succession of young merchant seamen wend their way to Ossie Joseph's office, in Oceana House, Lower Burg Street, there to be put in touch with Toc H members or friends in the Peninsula. From them the guests get a taste of the home life and hospitality they need so much in a strange land. The same kind of thing also happens at the other South African ports.

The instigator and prime mover in this scheme is, of course, "Uncle Lofty" Evans, a steward on the *Edinburgh Castle*. Lofty sought out other members and friends in various ports in South Africa and asked them to adopt the young merchant seamen with whom he sailed. The scheme inevitably spread to cover other mail-ships, and the contingent that calls at Oceana House weekly is growing stronger.

"Uncle Lofty" — he was christened William — is well-known in South Africa and Great Britain for the good work he has started. During the war this unassuming, generous-hearted man — his height explains his nick-name — sent the first "Uncle Lofty" food parcel to a child in Britain. That parcel launched a campaign. Members of Toc H leapt to the task and organised a Union-wide "Uncle Lofty" scheme, which caught the imagination of the public. By the end of the war, more than 400,000 "Uncle Lofty" parcels had left the Union.

Even now Lofty ferries food parcels to children in hospital and on every return trip he brings back a doll's house that he has made for some child in South Africa. His last trip was the most memorable — in fact Lofty says that it included his greatest moment in his thirty-seven years at sea. The Master of the ship, who knows something of Lofty's high aspirations, singled him out for introduction to the Archbishop of Canterbury, which was something to write home about.

## "MEET ME AT THE ROUND TOWER"

What about Toc H in Denmark? Since 1948 I have followed Toc H during the JOURNAL; often I have thought that it would be a good thing to have Toc H here; I think we need you. But how? Now there should be an occasion. From September 29 till October 16 we have here in Copenhagen a large British Exhibition and I think that we will have visit also by Toc H people. Please write and let me know if it is possible.



The Round Tower, Copenhagen

but I should like that others here should get something too, and I think that the best way is a greeting from the headquarters.

Welcome to Copenhagen. KNUD BUGGE VILLADSEN.  
19, Frederiksborggade,  
Kobenhavn, K. Denmark.

There is no Toc H in Denmark. You think, there is no use for Toc H. That is not right. Sometimes we hear that we have so many organisations here that it is impossible to start a new. Our human work is well organised; we have many Christian organisations; we have ecumenical organisations and so on. But still we need something more. If we can get a meeting here one day during the exhibition, we can start this winter with Toc H in Denmark. We can start in the centre of Denmark by the Round Tower.

I thank Toc H for all what you have given me

## FOUNDING A BLIND SCHOOL

Aggrey Willis arrived in Uganda last year to work with the Kampala Branch on extension, and extension there has certainly been. The photograph reproduced on the cover of this issue of the JOURNAL illustrates this extract from a letter

written at the end of June. "For the last two Saturday evenings we have been doing a combined job of work digging a fifty yard trench at the new Kireka Blind School. It was very good fun. One Makerere Toc H lad clouted himself on the head with a pick, but we tied a handkerchief round his head and he carried on most courageously. The ground was like granite — we're in the middle of the dry season — and at first our picks did little more than knock up a wisp of dust."

The notice-board bears the inscription: "Uganda Foundation for the Blind. Site for proposed Trade Training Centre." and the slim, bent figure in the centre is probably Charles Potts, Hon. Commissioner of Toc H, Uganda.

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## One Man's Testament

by HERBERT LEGGATE

THIS is an honest book.\* Many members of Toc H who are put off by traditional formulations of the Christian faith will find much in this book to help them. Others who feel that they have all the answers and who regard the dogmatic statements of the Christian Church as scientific propositions would be very shocked by it. Usually Christian apologists start with presuppositions which many seekers are unable to accept. They appeal, for example, to the authority of the Bible or the creeds of the Church. Those who are unable to accept these as a starting point are therefore unable to get any further.

Dr. Micklem appeals to the 'good sense' of 'the reasonable man'. He admits that it is not possible to *prove* that God is, and that man in some manner and in some degree may be aware of Him. Instead, he asks that men should be ready to hear what God the Lord will speak. He assumes that although God has spoken to mankind through the Bible and the Christian fathers, that is not the limit of His speaking. He speaks through nature, through art, through science, through secular history and through the common experience of life.

The book would be worth buying for its first chapter on the language of religion. The following chapters on Creation and Providence, the Jesus of History and the Resurrection, face

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\**Ultimate Question*. By Nathaniel Micklem (Geoffrey Bles, 7s. 6d.)

difficulties with absolute sincerity. It is unlikely that readers will agree with all that is said, but at any rate they will recognise this as the testament of a man who has fearlessly faced the challenges to his faith. No man, no Church, and no group of men or group of Churches has the whole truth. If you believe this to be so you will find the reading of this book an exciting experience.

## BRANCH BANNERS

### XIII SHURDINGTON

Contributed by GORDON COWCHER



THE banner of Shurdington Branch was generously presented to us by the members of Cheltenham Toc H and Toc H Women's Association Branches. For months previously we had debated the design, eventually our choice fell on our Parish Church as centre piece. The delicate spire is the principal man-made landmark of the village, and like the older dwellings was largely built of stone from the Cotswolds which looked down on its building. Moreover it is dedicated to St. Paul, who himself loved widely and built bravely.

At the foot of the church and the laurel wreath which frames it, is a small scroll in scarlet and on it, in black lettering, the motto *Res mon virba*. This, the Latin version of 'Deeds not words' is the proud watchword of the Wilson family whose most distinguished member, Dr. Edward Wilson, joined the Elder Brethren with Captain Scott in that immortal return from the South Pole. A native of Cheltenham, he spent much of his boyhood within our Parish. It is by courtesy of his sister, who still lives in Cheltenham, that we use this device, and only trust we may occasionally live up to our boast.

# SOVIET SNAPSHOT

by LESLIE WHEATLEY

SINCE STALIN DIED we have been afforded some vivid if momentary glimpses behind the Iron Curtain. Up to now there have not been enough of them to weave into any kind of pattern. The recent surge of co-operation, however, opens up tremendous possibilities of something akin to normal relations being established. If and when this happens, as surely we all must pray it will, still a great effort will be needed on our part to try to understand their approach to life. It is something entirely removed from what we might surmise from experience of Communists outside Russia.

That the effort of understanding will have to be long and arduous is clearly revealed in Canon Stockwood's recording\* of a visit he paid to Russia in the autumn of 1953. Though his stay was only of short duration, at least, the author does not write as an 'authority'. His account is a plain, unvarnished one of what he saw, the blunt but shrewd questions he asked and the answers he received.

Much of what he saw has been written about by others and broadly the accounts tally and the general picture of the social amenities of the Soviet Union is confirmed. There is much about it to be admired, particularly in the spheres of education and health. His discussions on the electoral system help perhaps more than any to put oneself into the mind of a Russian. Their system has at least a consistency, however wrong we think it, that our democratic form of government does not have, at any rate in the minds of those with whom the Canon discussed it.

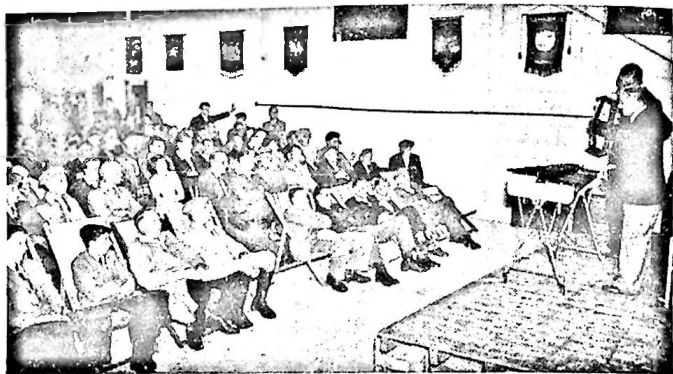
The outstanding yet disturbing feature revealed by the book is the ease with which presumably intelligent men stick to a party line that modern scholarship 'knocks for a six'. It becomes obvious that the Iron Curtain has stopped even the most commonplace of liberal ideas from seeping through. A near-frightening revelation of 'closed minds' comes from verbatim quotations of a peace conference of representative leaders of all Churches in the Communist countries. These are a measure of the extent of the patient work that awaits the raising of the curtain.

\* *I went to Moscow.* By Mervyn Stockwood. (Epworth Press 15s.)

# At the Norfolk Show

by JONATHAN MARDLE

AT THE BACK of the Royal Norfolk Show on Wednesday, behind the horse boxes and the long marquees that house the cattle, I discovered a big whitewashed building that bore the sign "Stockmen's Rest Room." In between shows it is a store for the equipment of the ground, but at show times Toc H takes it over: Toc H, that interesting lay brotherhood which grew up in the first World War and



The Stockmen's Concert organised by Toc H in progress

which has persisted ever since as a modest and usually inconspicuous society whose members go about doing kindly and often difficult little services which nobody else has thought of doing.

The stockmen's work at the Show never stops. The special refreshment tent that caters for them advertises that it starts serving breakfast at a quarter past six, and at night they spread blankets on a heap of straw and sleep in a corner of a marquee, or in a cattle float, nearby their beasts. Not that they mind, for they glory in their work; and the show season, when they travel about from their home farms to the Essex, the Suffolk, the Norfolk, and eventually the Royal Show — or maybe further afield to the Bath and West — is the crown of their year. But it did occur to Toc H that a rest room containing a



cheap canteen with a twenty-four-hour service, a dormitory furnished with camp beds, and a washroom with hot water, would be a boon to the stockmen. So indeed it is, and out of it has developed the stockmen's concert on the first night of the Norfolk Show.

It starts when all the public have left the ground. Toc H finds the concert party which, on a stage made out of crates, gives the sort of homely entertainment countrymen love. This time they had conjuring, ventriloquism, a puppet show, and old songs sung to an accordion and a xylophone. There must have been three hundred people in the audience, laughing, applauding, and talking between the acts in such a babel of good country dialects as you would hardly hear anywhere else except at the Royal Show, where the mixture would be even richer.

—*Eastern Daily Press*

## CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

### *A New Howard League Appeal*

THE HOWARD LEAGUE for Penal Reform has sent to the Home Secretary a memorial signed by "some hundred leaders of public opinion other than M.P.'s," calling for the abolition of capital punishment.

In an accompanying letter, the secretary of the league, Mr. Hugh J. Klare, says: "In the House of Commons, after the execution of Mrs. Ellis, you again referred to the question of public opinion. I hope that this memorial may show that the abolition of capital punishment is supported by influential persons engaged in a wide range of activities."

### *Well informed*

The memorial states:

"In the course of the debate on the death penalty in the House of Commons last February you gave it as the Government's opinion that 'it would be wrong to abolish capital punishment unless there were clearly overwhelming public sentiment in favour of this change'.

"History shows that reforms in the penal system have never been the concern of an overwhelming majority of the population. But in so far as we may be said to represent reasonably well-informed public sentiment we appeal to you most earnestly to reconsider your opinion, and to agree to a suspension of the death penalty on the lines of the motion introduced in the Commons last February and supported by members of all parties.

"We venture to ask you particularly to bear in mind the absence of any factual evidence regarding the uniquely deterrent effect which

capital punishment is said to possess, and the fact that in so many other countries sentence of death has been abandoned with safety and without affecting the number of murders committed one way or the other.

"If we cannot persuade you to reopen this subject at the present time may we at least urge you most strongly to allow time for the further discussion in Parliament of the many important and admirable recommendations of the Royal Commission on Capital Punishment, and to implement these without delay."

It is signed by "well-known lawyers, scientists, doctors, religious leaders, newspaper editors, artists and others whose signatures carry weight." Here is the full list of them:

Sir Richard Acland, Peggy Ashcroft, David Astor, Rev. Albert Belden, Professor Norman Bentwich, Dr. J. Bicer, Phyllis Bottome, H. N. Brailsford, Vera Brittain, Benjamin Britten, Dr. J. Bronowski, Frank Byers, Barrow Cadbury, Bishop of Chichester, Dame Harriette Chick, Lord Chorley, Canon L. J. Collins, Alex Comfort, Bishop of Coventry, Clemence Dane, Lord Douglas of Kirtleside.

Lord Faringdon, E. M. Forster, S. Margery Fry, Gerald Gardiner, Q.C., Professor D. V. Glass, General Sir George J. Giffard, Edward Glover, Victor Gollancz, Dr. Max Grunhut, Barbara E. Gwyer, Sir David Henderson, Christopher Hollis, William Douglas Home, J. F. Horrabin, Ivor T. Idris, Eglantyne M. Jebb, Geraldine Jebb, Maxwell Jones, R. Huws Jones, Professor O. Kahn-Freund, Ludovic Kennedy, Commander Sir Stephen King-Hall, Beatrix Lehmann, John Lehmann, Rosamond Lehmann, Lord Listowel.

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Lady Ruggles-Brise, Bishop of St. Albans, Peter Scott, Moira Shearer, Canon John Shirley, Professor T. S. Simey, Dame Edith Sitwell, Rev. Donald O. Soper, Stephen Spender, Lord Stansgate, Bishop of Stepney, E. B. Strauss, G. A. Sutherland, Lord Templewood, Michael Tippett, Professor Richard Titmuss, Jennifer Wayne, Rev. Leslie D. Weatherhead, Professor Glanville Williams, Angus Wilson, Dr. Helen Wodehouse, Leonard Woolf, Dr. Barbara Wootton, Eileen Younghusband.

## LANGDALE CAMP

by GARTH FREEMAN

A brief account of the 1955 Camp written by a sixteen-year-old member of Swindon Branch who was the youngest to attend.

THE CAMP this year started in heavy rain. Few of us who gathered there had met before but we didn't waste time in embarrassing greeting and soon felt one of the family. There were about twenty of us and we lived at the "Wayfarer's Lodge" which stands in the valley amongst trees and rivers on the Langdale Estate, and is overlooked by the Langdale Pikes. The lodge itself consists of two dormitories, a dining room, a lounge, a kitchen and wash-rooms.



Langdale Campers ready for action

Most of the party arrived on Saturday night in the pouring rain. A late supper was devoured and the rest of the evening spent swapping yarns, telling corny old jokes and generally getting to know one another.

Sunday morning we were awakened at 8 o'clock by the somewhat unmelodious sound of a hand bell, and after an excellent breakfast prepared for the day's activities. That day we went for two "trial" walks.

Contrary to all the pessimists, after Sunday we had no noticeable rain at all and every day went for pleasant walks amongst the wonderful countryside of the Lake District. We saw the mountains, lakes and valleys in glorious sunshine and had a most enjoyable, unforgettable week. At night when we got back, after a well needed dinner, we either played tennis, table tennis, went swimming, walked or just sat and talked. Each evening Iain Fraser, after a short reading, took family prayers at about 10.30 p.m. This gave the finishing touch to an eventful day, and we went to bed looking forward to tomorrow.

Thus we spent a week in perfect fellowship, living happily together in the lovely surroundings of the hills and valleys of Westmorland, and now I, for one, am looking forward immensely to Langdale Camp 1956.

# ... better than cure

by ALEC CHURCHER

THERE IS, I think, a healthy reaction in progress against anything that savours of the impersonal approach. In these days when so many sides of life have become de-personalised and when the tendency is for human beings to be more and more neatly classified into larger and larger groupings and suitably labelled, this re-emphasis on the supreme ultimate importance of the individual is certainly needed. But it is possible that the pendulum is swinging too far. Every individual is, in part at least, the product of his environment and it needs to be remembered that no individual can be treated in isolation from the social grouping of which he is a part. The solution of the problem of delinquency is fundamentally nothing less than the reform of human society as a whole, and all those of us who are concerned to help in providing the answer would do well to remember that we are also ourselves part of the problem. "The sinner's redemption" to quote the Editorial of the Summer 1955 number of *New Forum*, "is impossible unless at one and the same time it is accompanied by an attempt to redeem the *collective* of which he is an integral part."

Much of the work of Approved Schools and Borstal Institutions, in which young citizens are removed from their environment and submitted to a course of treatment aimed at their individual rehabilitation, is wasted because all too often too little can be done to remedy the situation in which their delinquency had its roots and to which in most cases they will return—the home and family situation.

Prevention is better than cure. Can that somewhat cumbersome machinery of state welfare be adapted to make an earlier impact on the disintegrating home? Can this be done without adding yet another strange social worker "interfering" in the private life of the family? And what more can be done to help to mend homes that have already become unhappy?

Sir Basil Henriques has recently written a book\* in which he gives his answers to these and many other similar

\* *The Home Menders—The Prevention of Unhappiness in Children* by Sir Basil Henriques, C.B.E., M.A., J.P. (George Harrap & Co. Ltd., Price 10s. 6d.)

questions. He writes with a forthrightness which we have come to expect from him and, if he tilts provocatively now and then at a few windmills, there is nothing unrealistic about his all-pervading idealism, for few living men have a wider experience or a deeper insight into the human problems he discusses.

Basil Henriques is an old friend of Toc H and, although himself a Jew, he is in the true apostolic succession from Dr. Stansfeld of Oxford and Bermondsey for it was 'The Doctor' who inspired Alec Paterson, and it is to Alec Paterson that Basil owes his own introduction to the world of East London in which his whole life has been spent. About the administrative changes he advocates in this book there may perhaps be differences of opinion, but of the urgency of the things about which he writes no one who has read *Journey into a Fog* (Reviewed in the July JOURNAL) can be in doubt.

For those who were unduly depressed by that rather terrifying book, may I recommend another honest picture† of the young folk of today, written by two youth leaders who have adopted the unusual method of getting selected boys and girls to interview their contemporaries and report with considerable candour on their habits and views. I must confess that I was sceptical of the validity of such a technique but the book which has emerged is convincing and even if some of the conversations reported seem to show signs of an awareness on the part of those interviewed that their replies were likely to have a wider audience, on the whole the picture created seems at least nearer the truth than most books about adolescents by adults. And from the book there also emerges a clear picture of a large mixed Evening Institute at work and of its influence on its members and the invaluable part it plays in supplementing the inadequacies of the present educational system. Those who believe in the County Colleges, provided for in the 1944 Education Act but for reasons of economy not yet within the bounds of immediate possibility, will find much to interest and encourage them.

If, as many people believe, the happiness and security of the nation's children depend to a very large extent on the

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† *Self-Portrait of Youth* (or *The Urban Adolescent* by G. H. Jordan and E. M. Fisher. (Wm. Heinemann Ltd., 12s. 6d.)

happiness and security of their homes. both these books deserve to be carefully read and studied. Basil Henriques's book makes suggestions for immediate changes which might very quickly strengthen the preventive side of social work for the young. In *Self-Portrait of Youth* we are enabled to see vividly the importance of effective long-term work in helping boys and girls to become themselves the builders of the happy homes of the future. Both books again emphasise the need for more and more of the right people, paid and unpaid, full-time and part-time, yet all amateurs in the true sense of that lovely word and none of them "dabblers", to follow in the footsteps of those men and women who in the past have found vocation and fulfilment in the service of their younger brothers and sisters in God's family. Toc H has no reason to feel ashamed of the contribution it has made in the past in terms of men and women to such work. Let us hope and believe it may have not reason to do so in the future.



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# FROM ALL PARTS DIRECT from AREAS



**SOUTHERN**—In addition to useful gifts received, **Waterlooville** Branch raised nearly £50 to help in furnishing a rest and recreation room they have opened for National Servicemen at their Branch meeting-place.  
G.W.P.

**NOTTS and DERBY**—A copy of the biography of Tubby, written by Melville Harcourt was recently presented by **Newark** Branch to Miss Elsie Mallaby, Pilot of the Women's Association Branch, as a token of thanks for the help she has given them during the past eighteen years. **Mansfield** Branch has started a two-way record request programme for a local sanatorium and **Mansfield Woodhouse** Branch are also filling a real need with their library service to local hospitals.  
G.A.F.

**SUSSEX**—Felpham members turned out in force to give crippled men patients from St. John's Hospital, Battersea, a good day by the sea. It was a great occasion for visitors and members alike. **East Grinstead** have started on a scheme for the provision and distribution of logs during next winter.  
C.A.C.

**NORTH-WESTERN**—a comparatively new Branch in a quiet Cheshire village, **Saughall** recently took over a condemned cottage, renovated and redecored it, and made of it an intriguing meeting place for both men's and women's Branches. The latest development is a "Junior Section" for boys and girls between thirteen and eighteen years of age. Beginning with six and now thirty strong, the "Juniors" run a programme based on Toc H principles and are keen to help with jobs.  
F.J.G.

**EAST MIDLANDS**—A very successful Car Treasure Hunt was recently organised for **Raunds** (Northants) Branch. The prize was so well hidden that it remained undiscovered and the Family Purse benefited by £14 3s. 0d. A convoy of forty-three cars, organised by **Northampton Town** Branch, took cripples and patients from local hospitals for an outing to Oundle, where tea was provided by members of the Women's Institute.

**MANCHESTER**—Practically the whole of the foodstuffs, including meat for the month, for the Children's Camp, were supplied free of charge by local grocery concerns, and with the goods came a terrific outburst of goodwill for Toc H. Albert Tilbrook, a member of **Accrington** Branch until his death in June, was one of three survivors from H.M.S. *Otranto* which was wrecked off the Hebrides in 1918 with the loss of 837 lives. Wilfrid Lord, Honorary Secretary of the Toc H (Manchester) Rugby Football Club for the past twenty-six years has been elected President of the club in succession to Gordon Huntley who has held that office for the past sixteen years  
G.L.L.

**S. and S.E. LONDON.**—Belvedere Branch hope to complete by Christmas the work of converting a disused recreation hut into a chapel for the use of staff and patients at the Goldie Leigh Children's Hospital. Dartford Branch have held an annual party for deaf-blind folk from N.W. Kent. It is twenty-four years since West Wickham and Dulwich Branches first jointly organised a day in the country for crippled men, women and children from London. Except for the war years, this has been an annual event. This year 120 cripples, including permanent patients from St. John's Hospital, Battersea, were taken to Keston Common. S.V.E.

**KENT**—The "Garden of England" has been at its best during the last few weeks when many inter-Branch visits have taken place. Faversham and Whitstable had their annual Garden Meeting on a large fruit farm. A grand time of fellowship this, and a good feed of cherries and strawberries! S.E. Kent District team will welcome any members and friends at their Week-end Rally being held at Bilsington Priory on September 10-11. C.A.C.

**WALES**—On September 17 in Bangor, a North Wales Festival will take place. This will be a "Festival with a difference", when a Service will be followed by a series of playlets typifying Welsh national life. B.K.D.

**WEST MIDLANDS**—New Branches make the news this time. Knighton has just received its Lamp. Visitors and friends from many neighbouring Branches attended the presentation. Stow-on-the-Wold have been responsible for the formation of an Old People's Club. They have also organised hospitality and entertainment for the annual outing of the Harborne Branch Blind Club. A happy piece of town and country co-operation.

Hereford Branch recently took residents of Hampton Grange Home for the Blind to spend a day at Penarth. The local Branch assisted in the arrangements, and the highlight was a concert given by the Penarth Male Voice Choir, which included the three test pieces they sang at this year's Llangollen Festival. J.H.M.S.

**BEDS. & HERTS.**—Twenty-two cars were used by Bishop's Stortford Branch when they took a party of their Old and Lonely Friends on an outing to Sudbury, Suffolk, where they received lavish hospitality from local members of Toc H Women's Association. A Bedford District Week-end is being held at Biggleswade on October 15-16.

**WESTERN**—Clevedon held their annual Garden Party on Saturday, July 16, and were delighted to receive a cable from 'Sawbones' in America. Alexandra Rose Day house-to-house collections made by nine Branches have resulted in a nett contribution to the Family Purse of over £107. The Area is looking forward to welcoming Tubby in October when he will be speaking at Guest Nights at Chippenham (October 21), Cheltenham (October 22), and at Street, Somerset (October 24). Arrangements have been made by the Jackson Cole Development Appeal Committee for Dame Myra Hess to give a recital in Bath on November 18, when the proceeds are for the Family Purse. Chippenham Branch members arriving for their weekly meeting found the following message waiting for them: "Why don't you have meetings on a Saturday night? Greetings from Ashby de la Zouch Men's and Women's Branches. P.S.: Glad we are not on room cleaning."



**NORTHERN IRELAND**—After opening their rooms to the old folk, Bangor are now seeking the co-operation of other local societies in forming an Old People's Club. Belfast Central held their annual children's outing recently and in spite of very bad weather it was a very good day. Golfing enthusiasts recently met at Ballyclan to compete for the Malcolm Speir Challenge Cup. The winner was Terry Lawley of Bangor, while Chad King and Jack Shaw tied for second place. A family gathering at Five Corners made an excellent finale.

**LINCOLNSHIRE**—Good work with spastic children is being done by members of Caistor group, who also achieved surprisingly good results at their recent Jumble Sale.

**OXFORD & THAMES VALLEY**—Compton, a village Branch, have taken a farm—a stretch of land on which they grow vegetables with big hearts for good causes. They do it well. The Field Farm Estate, Dorchester—one of the Huttled Camps in which Toc H has been interested,—has been allocated two or three hundred new houses, to turn itself into a real village. This is tremendous news—better than those who live in solid houses can realise. The mixed Toc H group there is going well. O.M.W.

**NORTHERN**—Houghton-le-Spring had a good crowd at their Fete and Sports and Mark XVIII were also well supported at their Garden Fete held in July. Darlington and Redcar again combined in giving town kiddies a day at the seaside. Chester-le-Street held a very successful 'Grand Concert' in the local park, during which a grand piano was presented to the local hospital. Craghead and North Ormesby groups are now going 'full steam ahead' and Cleveland District have again run their annual trip for Blind friends. G.V.Y.

## YORKSHIRE "FIND THE TOWNS" COMPETITION

**SOLUTION:** 1. Carlisle, 2. Herstmonceux, 3. Luton, 4. Sidecup, 5. Stockport, 6. Ilkley, 7. Redditch, 8. Taunton, 9. Gloucester, 10. Chatham, 11. Lowestoft, 12. Sunderland, 13. Ripon, 14. Frome, 15. Newbiggin-on-Sea, 16. Upminster, 17. Addleston, 18. Ware, 19. Portmadoc, 20. Conway, 21. Richmond, 22. Colne, 23. Tipton, 24. Flint, 25. Couldson, 26. Glossop, 27. Hitchin, 28. Barking, 29. Carmarthen, 30. Ascot, 31. Boston 32. Macclesfield.

**PRIZE WINNERS:** The following competitors tied for first place, theirs being the only correct solutions received. In accordance with the rules they share the first and second prizes, each receiving £7 10s. 0d. Mrs. D. Walker, 36 Central Avenue, Fartown, Huddersfield and Mrs. D. G. Worthington, 267 New Hey Road, Oakes, Huddersfield. Six competitors submitted solutions with only one incorrect answer and share between them the third prize, each receiving 6s. 8d. Mr. G. Coates, 26 Eleanor Drive, Harrogate; Mr. F. W. Jones, 50 Beech Road, Harrogate; Mrs. Lyon, 143 Scalby Road, Scarborough; Mrs. J. W. Matthewman, 25 Dodworth Avenue, Kettlethorpe, Wakefield; Mrs. E. Parker, 14 Bachelor Gardens, Harrogate; Mr. C. H. Smith, 34 St. Leonard's Road, Harrogate.

# Oil means brainwork

SHELL RESEARCH is one of the big brains-trusts of the world. You could call it a Graduate University of Applied Science, with ten specialist colleges. There are seven major Shell research laboratories: two in Holland, two in England, three in North America; and three agricultural research stations: one in England, two in North America. At last count, the total staff of those ten establishments was nearly 5,000. The back-room boys of a great industry.

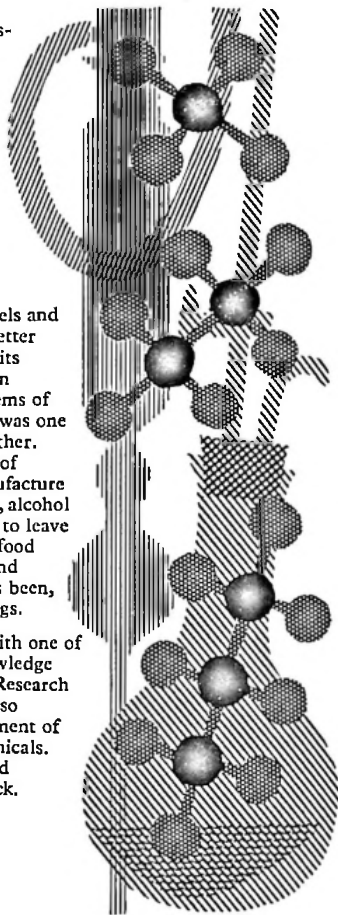
The main, perpetual task is to make fuels and lubricants provide bigger power and better protection to the modern engine in all its forms. But Shell Research has also been tackling some of the big general problems of the twentieth century. Malaria control was one such problem. The jet turbine was another. The war against rust, the development of selective weedkillers, the quantity manufacture of sulphur, the production of glycerine, alcohol and detergents from new sources, so as to leave all edible fats available for the world's food supplies, the development of plastics and synthetic textiles... Shell Research has been, is and will be working on all these things.

Shell's back-room boys are occupied with one of the most exciting branches of new knowledge... the science of hydrocarbons. Shell Research improves fuels and lubricants. But it also prompts, points and paces the development of the brave new world of petroleum chemicals. Petroleum chemicals are helping to feed and clothe the world, and to cure its sick.



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The R.A.F. Apprentices Band playing at Wendover Toc H Club Fête

# Admission Sixpence

by JOYCE GREEN

WHATEVER the admission charge, the Toc H garden parties and fêtes have been very popular this year. All round the country we hear of these social gatherings, in aid of the Family Purse, or some job of service, and congratulations go to all those hard-working folk who plan, and make, and bring, and buy. Here is a brief outline of some of these events:

1,100 people paid admittance to the PEMBURY second annual fête which included a fancy dress parade, boxing contest, and a display of counter-marching by the Sea Cadets, and finished with dancing on the lawn. A garden party at BRIDLINGTON was supported by the Mayor and Mayoress, the former being a Toc H member. SEVENOAKS launched their project for purchasing a home film unit to provide shows for old folk and bed-bound children by holding a garden party, which realised between £60 and £70. There was a dancing display, puppet show and Scottish country dancing. £30 was raised at the STAMFORD & DISTRICT garden fête.

The kilted pipe band of the Army Apprentices' School led waggon-loads of children in fancy dress to the HARTLEY

WINTNEY fête. As well as the usual side-shows and stalls, there was a miniature railway and train, a chance to see a craftsman blacksmith at work, and in the evening, tractor and trailer rides across neighbouring fields.



The man at the gate

Over 3,000 people attended the seventh annual garden party run by MILL HILL, which raised £375 for their Film Unit. Their radio van, with mobile police escort, led the Dagenham Girl Pipers and the band of the Edgware Sea Cadets through a main thoroughfare to the fête, and the Girl Pipers gave further entertainment in the arena. The afternoon's fun included two clowns to amuse the children, and an 'aqua' show in the swimming pool.

A gymnastic display and country dancing were among the entertainments at the HORNCastle garden party, and proceeds totalled over £60. The R.A.F. Apprentices' Band from Halton marched through the town to WENDOVER TOC H SERVICES CLUB, where they provided a good musical programme at the fête. Much of the entertainment was supplied by the R.A.F., with a gymnastic display and a hair-raising exhibition of judo. The apprentices also ran many of the side-shows.

### *Unusual features*

Some unusual features were part of the ADDINGTON summer fayre. The kissing competition had to be cancelled, but this may have been offset by the Croydon Fire Brigade giving an exciting display of fire-fighting. To end the day a barbecue was held, with square dancing, and slices off the lamb which had been roasting on the spit since mid-afternoon. The crowd of about 1,700 provided a profit of over £100.

The fifth annual Toc H/B.E.L.R.A. garden party was again held in the grounds of The Holme, Bedford College, Regents Park. About forty Branches of Toc H and Women's Association, with the help of B.E.L.R.A. Headquarters support this event, which is becoming more popular each year. It is expected that the profits this year will be over £300.

And so, throughout the summer months, Toc H makes new friends, as well as a source of income, from providing folk with a pleasant Saturday afternoon in beautiful surroundings; an opportunity for mother to spot a bargain, dad to try his skill in the side-shows, and the children to enjoy almost everything that's going.



—and the boy at the tub

## RACIAL RELATIONS

A recent questionnaire sent out to all the eighteen Marks shows that during the twelve months ending February 28, 1955, no less than seventy-nine coloured students etc., stayed in Marks for periods varying from one week to twelve months, and at that time twenty-two coloured students were living in various Marks. The countries of origin from which they came included India, Pakistan, West Africa, Malaya, Korea, The Gold Coast, Jamaica, Persia, Nigeria, Kenya, and Uganda. Of other overseas students etc., the numbers are equally illuminating: some ninety-two have stayed in the Marks during the same period and at the present time twenty-six are resident in the Marks. The countries include Germany, France, Holland, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, Spain, Yugoslavia, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, and from the Commonwealth, South Africa, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

—from *Central Houses Committee Report, 1955.*

# Toc H in Schools

THE Horncastle Grammar School Unit of Toc H was started in January, 1942, when a number of senior boys and girls sought a corporate means of service to the community as part of their War effort. Their activities could have found expression under any — or no — name, but the Head Master wisely suggested that the group ought to link up with some existing organisation. Both he and his Senior Master were members of the Horncastle Branch, and one of the mistresses belonged to the Women's Section; add to this a talk to the Senior School by Norman McPherson, who a few months previously had become Lincolnshire Area Padre, and the set-up was complete.

The Unit met fortnightly over lunch, and still does, though now it comprises boys and masters only. Three of the latter, some six to ten of the former, the number varying slightly each year, but restricted usually by the boys themselves, membership being regarded as a privilege for Sixth-Formers. It functions very much on the lines of a Branch, with its regular meetings, business, jobs and Guest Speakers, the boys filling the offices of Chairman, Secretary, etc. At each meeting the Ceremony of Light is taken, a wax-taper holder having been made by one of the boys in the school workshop.

Close liaison is maintained with the Horncastle Toc H Branch, the boys being entertained by them in the summer in "The Doc's" garden, he typically supplying the strawberries and cream supper, and in the winter in the Branch Room. Guest Speakers have readily been forthcoming from the Branch, and from friends on the Area Executive. Four boys have visited the Old House while two years ago five of them stayed overnight at the Lincs. Area Rally at Skegness, and later in the year the unit helped at the Horncastle Branch's Garden Fete. This year two boys took part in the London Schools Week during the Easter Holidays.

Recently the Unit had the great pleasure of entertaining none other than the Administrator himself on the day he came to Horncastle's 25th Birthday Festival, and John sampled a typical school dinner. He was in great form at the evening's meeting, when he met the boys again; so apparently everything went down well on both occasions!

# AUTUMN PICTURES

**A**T THIS TIME of the year, when Branches who run mobile Film Units are planning their winter programmes, attention is drawn to the wide variety of 16 mm. films that is readily available. In addition to the many hundreds of entertaining films offered for hire by the film libraries of Associated British-Pathé Ltd. and G.B. Equipments Ltd., there are also some very fine documentary and educational films produced by commercial undertakings and offered on free loan to responsible organisations. Messrs. Carwal Ltd., the producers of the Toc H Filmstrip, also run a large filmstrip hire library. Secretaries of Toc H Film Units are recommended to write direct for details and catalogues to any of the following:

Associated British-Pathé Ltd., Pathé House, 133 Oxford Street, London, W.1; G.B. Equipments Ltd., Dept. THJ, Mortimer House, 37-41 Mortimer Street, London, W.1; British Transport Commission, 25 Savile Row, London, W.1; Petroleum Films Bureau, 29 New Bond Street, London, W.1; International Wool Secretariat, Dorland House, 18-20 Regent Street, London, S.W.1; Unilever Ltd., Information Division, Unilever House, London, E.C.4; Carwal Ltd., Manor Road, Wallington, Surrey.

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# OPEN HUSTINGS

*The Editor welcomes letters on all matters concerning Toc H. For reasons of space the right is reserved to shorten letters submitted, and every effort is made to print a representative selection from those received.*

## Forty for Forty

IN December Toc H will be forty years old. Could we not celebrate this occasion by "fortifying" Toc H—to the extent of 40s. per head?

The Central Council resolution of two years ago called for an average contribution to the Family Purse of 30s., but even this inadequate figure has not been reached yet on a country-wide basis. It rather seems that many Branches do not look forward at all in the matter of finance, but keep it on a pre-war level, whereas a little more thought and drive would ensure a reasonable income for the Family Purse as the Movement faces the future.

So what about it—instead of "thirty-bob-a-nob" let us rally to the cry of "forty bob for forty years."

E. ATKINS.

*Southern London Area.*

## "Re-discovering Toc H"

YOU may have heard that the Toc H Women's Association in Southern Africa is gathering in Durban from July 9 to 11 for a National Rally. Forty members from all over the country, from as far afield as Cape Town and Livingstone in Northern Rhodesia, are arriving on Saturday morning, by train, plane and car, and will live in the Women's Resi-

dence of the University. Durban members will then join them and a varied programme has been planned. The committee entrusted with the arrangements gave considerable thought to the theme which might co-ordinate all our thinking, and decided it could not do better than to base everything on Mayne Elson's excellent articles in the JOURNAL. Accordingly, it adopted "Re-discovering Toc H" as the basic idea for the whole week-end. May we, through your pages, express our thanks to Mayne Elson for the inspiration provided us by his articles; we are very glad to hear that Toc H will be publishing them in booklet form, and assure him that we will welcome the publication.

(Mrs.) BARBARA LUKE.

*Durban, Southern Africa.*

## Don Robins

I WAS much interested in the article in the May JOURNAL about St. George's Crypt, but the writer did not mention Don Robins' link with Toc H, although mention is made of Toc H volunteers.

Before going to Leeds he was a curate attached to the Croydon Parish Church and was Padre to Toc H Central Branch in Croydon. He welcomed me into Toc H and was a very true friend until he passed over.



On my first visit to his church in Leeds the place was very empty. At his funeral there were some five thousand people to pay homage to his great work in Leeds. Don Robins was a great saint as will be observed by those who read the book about him "But who was Don Robins?" by Paul Gliddon. I commend this book to Toc H—it is fascinating reading and a story of one who well paid "the rent for his room on earth".

CHAS. R. SANDERS.

*Millom, Cumberland.*

### Scrap Books

AT a conference of Hospital Librarians and others interested in reading matter for old people, it was stressed that many old people cannot be bothered to read ordinary books, but find great interest and pleasure in those with plenty of pictures. This is natural because both the eyes and the mind tend to tire with advancing age. The suggestion was put forward that scrap books would contribute to this problem which faces those who work in Geriatric Wards, and members of Old People's Welfare Committees including many Toc H men and women, who visit the aged. The supply is far short of the demand, and it would be a useful and not unpleasant task for Toc H members to undertake the collecting of suitable illustrations and scraps, and the making up of the books. All you need is a cheap scrap book, obtainable from any stationers, a pot of paste, a pile of pictures (views from old Christmas cards, cut-outs from magazines, holiday view postcards, etc.) plus a little imagination. Such books would give hours of delight, simple as they may be, and

should be sent to the nearest Hospital Librarian, or, if you like, to me, and I will see that they reach the proper quarter.

GEORGE BENNETT.

*Sevenoaks Public Library,  
The Drive,  
Sevenoaks, Kent.*

### Young Servicemen

WOLVERHAMPTON Branch has made contact with the R.A.F. Training Wing at Cosford, near Albrighton with a view to entertaining boy entrants and some of the National Servicemen in our homes at week-ends. (Unfortunately we cannot sleep them—no room!)

If any members have friends or relations posted to Cosford would they please pass on this offer of hospitality, and let me know.

FRANK WILLIAMS.

*28 Northfield Grove,  
Merry Hill, Wolverhampton.*

### Arthur Pimblott

IT was with deep regret that the members of Bushey & Oxhey Branch heard of the recent death of Arthur Pimblott.

Arthur was for years a member of Brussels Branch and, when Belgium was over-run by the enemy in 1940, he came to this country and found a temporary resting place at Northwood, Middlesex.

We in Bushey met in those days on the first Sunday of the month, and on one of these occasions there was a knock, and in walked Arthur Pimblott and Gordon Blackman, who was (and still is) a member of Charleroi Branch. The association continued until they returned on the cessation of hostilities. Recently, knowing that 'Pimmy' was in this country, we fixed him to speak at

Bushey and it was a great shock to receive a telephone message that he had been taken ill and had died. Gordon Blackman was at the meeting, and in taking 'Light', he paid a great tribute to a grand man and a fine worker.

Arthur Pimblott was a member of the Toc H International Relations Committee, and did a tremendous work on behalf of people, who, like himself, found themselves as evacuees in this country during the war, and many people have had cause to thank him for his efforts on their behalf.

He was an outstanding character, a fluent speaker and a good thinker, and will be greatly missed.

HERBERT EVANS.

*Pilot—Bushey & Oxhey Branch.*

### *The Journal*

RECENT numbers of the JOURNAL have included letters from members who regret the passing of the old JOURNAL. I am glad that there are no more of these. A shining example of progressive Toc H is the letter from M. Chelliah of South India printed in the May issue. There

is so much left unwritten of how those truly Christian are invited to join an organization which aims at getting its members to help others, which could be written down in a very live book—and should be.

I remain, Sir, an enthusiastic supporter of the new JOURNAL, which includes an appreciation of its type set-up, its convenient size and above all its very live subject matter.

G. H. GRIFFITH (*Chairman*).

*Toc H (Wed.) Lunch Club,  
Drury Lane, London, W.C.2.*

### *Tape Exchange*

MY Branch have read with interest the article on Tape Recorders in the May JOURNAL. One of our members, Harold Lynd of 44 Greatness Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent, owns a Truvox Mark III twin track tape recorder and would like to exchange tapes with members of other Branches at home or more particularly overseas. Will anyone interested please write direct to Harold.

BILL ASHBY.

*Seal Toc H.*

## RUS IN URBE

Tubby is most grateful to Ivor Davies, and all the members of Wimborne, Ferndown, Verwood and Poole Branches of Toc H and the Verwood Horticulture Branch, N.U.F., who had a hand in making the gift of Fruit Trees to him for planting in the church garden at All Hallows and other small gardens which he has created on Tower Hill as part of the Tower Hill Improvement Scheme.

Apple Trees in blossom on 'The Hill' provided a sight not seen for many generations, and brought a breath of the countryside to the heart of London.

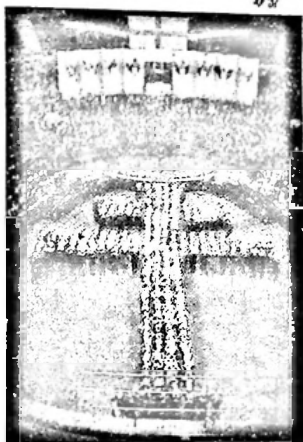


## Christmas Cards

**T**HIS YEAR a choice of three different cards is offered and supplies will be available at the beginning of October in time for mailing overseas.

**Card "A"** An oblong card, size  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " x 5" with the Lamp design die-stamped in two colours and greeting printed inside. Complete with envelopes, 4s. 6d. per dozen, post free

**Card "B"** A reproduction of the Patriarchal Cross formed by the Lamps of the Branches at this year's Festival. Linen finish. Size 4" x  $5\frac{1}{2}$ ", complete with envelopes, 4s. 6d. per dozen post free



**Card "C"** This card bears the Lamp design die-stamped in two colours on the front, with the Patriarchal Cross, as Card "B" printed inside. Size 4" x  $5\frac{1}{2}$ " Complete with envelopes, 7s. 6d. per dozen, post free

## 1956 DIARIES

Next year's Toc H Diary, indispensable to all members, will be ready at the beginning of October. Price 3s. 6d. or fitted with pencil 4s. 0d. post free.

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## ORDER FORM

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